

THE
CHARGE
OF THE
COMMONS
OF
ENGLAND,
Against Charls Stuart,
King of *England*,

Of High Treason, and other High Crimes,
exhibited to the High Court of Justice,
By *John Cook* Esquire, Solicitor General,
appointed by the said Court, for,
and on the behalf of the
People of *England*.

As it was read to Him by the Clerk in the said
Court, as soon as Mr. Solicitor General for the Kingdom
had Impeached Him, in the name of the Commons
of *England*, at His first Araignment,
Saturday, Jan. 20. 1648.

Examined by the Original Copy. *Imprimatur, Gilbert Mabbot.*

London, Printed for *Rapha Hayford*, at the Gilt Bible in *Queens-Head-Alley*
in *Pater-noster-Row*. 1648.

THE
HISTORY
OF THE
COMMONS
OF
ENGLAND.

By Sir John Elliott, Bart.
King of Arms.

Printed by W. Baskett, at the High Court of Chancery, in the Strand, near the High Court of Chancery, in the Strand, near the High Court of Chancery.

As it was read in House by the Clerk in the fifth year of the said King's Majesty, in the fifth year of the said King's Majesty, in the fifth year of the said King's Majesty.

Printed by W. Baskett, at the High Court of Chancery, in the Strand, near the High Court of Chancery, in the Strand, near the High Court of Chancery.

Charge of the Commons of *England*,
 against CHARLS STUART,
 King of *England*,

Of High Treason, and other High Crimes,
 exhibited to the High Court of Justice,
 Saturday, January 20. 1648.

The Court being sate, and the Prisoner at the Bar, Mr. *Cook*, Solicitor General, spake thus; My Lord, In behalf of the Commons of *England*, and of all the people thereof, I do accuse *Charls Stuart*, here present, of High Treason, and High Misdemeanors: And I do, in the name of the Commons of *England*, desire the Charge may be read unto Him, which the Clerk then read, as followeth;



That the said CHARLS STUART, being admitted King of England, and therein trusted with a *limited Power*, to Govern by; and according to the Laws of the Land, and not otherwise; And by his Trust; Oath, and Office, being obliged to use the power committed to him, *For the good and benefit of the People*, and for the preservation of their Rights and Liberties; Yet nevertheless, out of a *wicked Design*, to erect and uphold in himself an unlimited and Tyrannicall power, to rule according to his *Will*,
 and

and to overthrow the Rights and Liberties of the People ; Yea, to take away, and make void the foundations thereof, and of all redress and remedy of mis-government, which by the fundamental Constitutions of this Kingdom, were reserved on the Peoples behalf, in the Right and Power of frequent and successive Parliaments, or Nationall meetings in Councell ; He, the said *Charles Stuart*, for accomplishment of such his *Designs*, and for the protecting of himself and his adherents, in His and Their *wicked Practises* to the same Ends, hath Trayterously and maliciously levyed War against the present Parliament, & the People therein Represented.

Particularly, upon or about the thirtieth day of *June*, in the yeer of our Lord, One thousand six hundred forty and two, At *Beverly*, in the County of *York* ; And upon, or about the thirtieth day of *July*, in the yeer aforesaid, in the County of the City of *York* ; And upon, or about the twenty fourth day of *August*, in the same yeer, at the County of the Town of *Nottingham* (when, and where He set up His Standard of War ;) And also on, or about the twenty third day of *October*, in the same yeer, at *Edg-Hill*, and *Keinton-field*, in the County of *Warwick* ; And upon, or about the thirtieth

eth day of *November*, in the same year, at *Brainchford*, in the County of *Middlesex*: And upon, or about the thirtieth day of *August*, in the year of our Lord, One thousand six hundred forty and three, at *Carvesham-bridg*, neer *Reding*, in the County of *Berks*; And upon, or about the thirtieth day of *October*, in the year last mentioned, at, or neer the City of *Glocester*; And upon, or about the thirtieth day of *November*, in the year last mentioned, at *Newbery*, in the County of *Berks*; And upon, or about the one and thirtieth day of *July*, in the year of our Lord, One thousand six hundred forty and four, at *Cropredy-bridg*, in the County of *Oxon*; And upon, or about the thirtieth day of *September*, in the year last mentioned, at *Bodmin*, and other places neer adjacent, in the County of *Cornwal*; And upon, or about the thirtieth day of *November*, in the year last mentioned, at *Newbery* aforesaid; And upon, or about the eighth day of *June*, in the year of our Lord, one thousand six hundred forty and five, at the Town of *Leicester*; And also, upon the fourteenth day of the same moneth, in the same year, at *Naseby-field*, in the County of *Northampton*. At which several times and places, or most of them, and at many other places in this Land, at several

other times, within the yeers aforementioned : And in the yeer of our Lord, One thousand six hundred fourty and six , He the said *Charls Stuart*, hath caused and procured many thousands of the free-people of the Nation to be slain ; and by *Divisions, Parties, and Insurrections*, within this Land, by invasions from forraign parts, endeavored and procured by Him, and by *many other evil ways and means*. He the said *Charls Stuart*, hath not onely maintained and carryed on the said War, both by Land and Sea, during the yeers before mentioned ; but also hath renewed, or caused to be renewed, the said War against the *Parliament*, and good people of this Nation, in this present yeer, One thousand six hundred forty and eight , in the Counties of *Kent, Essex, Surrey, Suffex, Middlesex*, and many other Counties and places in *England and Wales*, and also by Sea ; And particularly, He the said *Charls Stuart*, hath for that purpose, *Given Commissions to his Son, the Prince, and others*; whereby, *Besides multitudes of other persons*, many such, as were by the *Parliament intrusted and employed*, for the safety of the Nation ; being by Him or His Agents, corrupted ; to the betraying of their *Trust*, and revolting from the *Parliament*, have had entertainment and commissi-

on,

on, for the continuing and renewing of *War* and *Hostility*, against the said *Parliament* and *People*, as aforesaid. By which *cruel and unnatural Wars*, by Him, the said *Charls Stuart*, levied, continued, and renewed, as aforesaid, much *Innocent blood* of the *Free-people* of this *Nation* hath been spilt; many *Families* have been undone, the *Publike Treasury* wasted and exhausted, *Trade obstructed*, and miserably decayed; vast expence and damage to the *Nation* incurred, and many parts of the *Land* spoyled, some of them even to *desolation*.

And for further prosecution of His said *evil Designs*, He, the said *Charls Stuart*, doth still continue his *Commissions* to the said *Prince*, and other *Rebels* and *Revolters*, both *English* and *Forraigners*; and to the *Earl of Ormond*, and to the *Irish Rebels* and *Revolters*, associated with him; from whom further *Invasions* upon this *Land* are threatned, upon the procurement, and on the behalf of the said *Charls Stuart*.

All which *wicked Designs, Wars*, and *evill practises* of Him, the said *Charls Stuart*, have been, and are carryed on, for the advancing and upholding of the *Personal Interest* of *Will* and *Power*, and pretended *Prerogative* to Himself and his *Family*, against the *publike Interest*, *Common Right*, *Liberty*, *Justice*, and *Peace*

Of

Of the People of this Nation, by, and for whom he was entrusted, as aforesaid.

By all which it appeareth, that He, the said *Charls Stuart* hath been, and is the Occasioner, Author, and Contriver of the said Unnaturall, Cruell, and bloody Wars, and therein guilty of all the Treasons, Murthers, Rapines, Burnings, Spoiles, Desolations, Damage and Mischief to this Nation, acted or committed in the said Wars, or occasioned thereby.

And the said *Iohn Cook*, by Protestation (saving on the behalf of the People of England, the liberty of Exhibiting at any time hereafter, any other Charge against the said *Charls Stuart*; and also of replying to the Answers which the said *Charls Stuart* shall make to the Premises, or any of them, or any other Charge that shall be so Exhibited) doth, for the said Treasons and Crimes, on the behalf of the said People of England, Impeach the said *Charls Stuart*, as a Tyrant, Traytor, Murtherer, and a publike, and Implacable Enemy to the Common-wealth of England: And pray, That the said *Charls Stuart*, King of England, may be put to answer All and Every the Premises, That such Proceedings, Examinations, Tryals, Sentence, and Iudgment may be thereupon had, or shall be agreeable to Justice.

F I N I S.